

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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5 1. A method for adding content to a first content object stored as a first plurality of content entities in a data repository, the data repository containing a second plurality of content entities of a second content object, each of the content entities having an identifier, comprising the steps of:

10 Defining the first object by a first list of content entity identifiers, such that adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first list adds the identified content entity to the first object.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the second object by a second list of content entity identifiers.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein adding an entity identifier from the second list to the first list adds the identified content entity to the first object.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first object is a book, and the content entities are at least one of a volume, a chapter, and a section.

25 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for selecting a content entity identifier from the second list to add to a desired location in the first list through the user interface.

6. A method for adding content to a first hierarchically structured content object stored as a first plurality of content entities in a data repository, the data repository containing a second plurality of content entities of a second hierarchically structured content object, each of the content entities having an identifier, comprising the steps of:

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Defining the first object by a first outline of containers and content entity identifiers, such that adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first outline adds the identified content entity to the first object.

10 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of defining the second object by a second outline of containers and content entity identifiers.

15 8. The method of claim 7, wherein adding a container of the second outline to the first outline adds the content entities identified by the content entity identifiers of that container to the first object.

20 9. The method of claim 7, wherein a first container in the second outline contains one or more containers.

25 10. The method of claim 9, wherein adding the first container to the first outline adds the content entities identified by the content entity identifiers of all containers in the first container to the first object.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the first and second objects are books, and the content entities are at least one of a volume, a chapter, and a section.

25 12. The method of claim 6, wherein the first object and second objects are books, and the containers are one or more of a book, a volume, and a chapter.

13. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for selecting a content entity identifier from the second outline to add to a desired location in the first outline through the user interface.

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14. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface  
communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for selecting a container  
from the second outline to add to a desired location in the first outline through the user interface.

10 15. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface  
communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for creating a new container  
to add to the first outline at a desired location through the user interface.

16. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for adding content to a first content object stored as a first plurality of content entities in a data repository, the data repository containing a second plurality of content entities of a second content object, each of the content entities having an identifier, comprising the steps of:

Defining the first object by a first list of content entity identifiers, such that adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first list adds the identified content entity to the first object.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of defining the second object by a  
25 second list of content entity identifiers.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein adding an entity identifier from the second list to the first list adds the identified content entity to the first object.

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19. The method of claim 16, wherein the first object is a book, and the content entities are at least one of a volume, a chapter, and a section.

5 20. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for selecting a content entity identifier from the second list to add to a desired location in the first list through the user interface.

10 21. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for adding content to a first hierarchically structured content object stored as a first plurality of content entities in a data repository, the data repository containing a second plurality of content entities of a second hierarchically structured content object, each of the content entities having an identifier, comprising the steps of:

15 Defining the first object by a first outline of containers and content entity identifiers, such that adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first outline adds the identified content entity to the first object.

20 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of defining the second object by a second outline of containers and content entity identifiers.

25 23. The method of claim 22, wherein adding a container of the second outline to the first outline adds the content entities identified by the content entity identifiers of that container to the first object.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein a first container in the second outline contains one or more containers.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein adding the first container to the first outline adds the content entities identified by the content entity identifiers of all containers in the first container to the first object.

5 26. The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second objects are books, and the content entities are at least one of a volume, a chapter, and a section.

10 27. The method of claim 21, wherein the first object and second objects are books, and the containers are one or more of a book, a volume, and a chapter.

15 28. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for selecting a content entity identifier from the second outline to add to a desired location in the first outline through the user interface.

20 29. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for selecting a container from the second outline to add to a desired location in the first outline through the user interface.

25 30. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing a mechanism for creating a new container to add to the first outline at a desired location through the user interface.

31. A system for adding content to a first content object stored as a first plurality of content entities in a data repository, the data repository containing a second plurality of content entities of a second content object, each of the content entities having an identifier, comprising:

30 Means for defining the first object by a first list of content entity identifiers, such that adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first list adds the identified content entity to the first object.

32. The system of claim 31, further comprising means for defining the second object by a second list of content entity identifiers.

5 33. The system of claim 32, wherein adding an entity identifier from the second list to the first list adds the identified content entity to the first object.

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34. The system of claim 31, wherein the first object is a book, and the content entities are at least one of a volume, a chapter, and a section.

10 35. The system of claim 31, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanism for enabling a user to select a content entity identifier from the second list to add to a desired location in the first list through the user interface.

15 36. A system for adding content to a first hierarchically structured content object stored as a first plurality of content entities in a data repository, the data repository containing a second plurality of content entities of a second hierarchically structured content object, each of the content entities having an identifier, comprising:

20 Means for defining the first object by a first outline of containers and content entity identifiers, such that adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first outline adds the identified content entity to the first object.

25 37. The system of claim 36, further comprising means for defining the second object by a second outline of containers and content entity identifiers.

30 38. The system of claim 37, wherein adding a container of the second outline to the first outline adds the content entities identified by the content entity identifiers of that container to the first object.

39. The system of claim 37, wherein a first container in the second outline contains one or more containers.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein adding the first container to the first outline adds the content entities identified by the content entity identifiers of all containers in the first container to the first object.

41. The system of claim 36, wherein the first and second objects are books, and the content entities are at least one of a volume, a chapter, and a section.

42. The system of claim 36, wherein the first object and second objects are books, and the containers are one or more of a book, a volume, and a chapter.

43. The system of claim 36, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanism for enabling a user to select a content entity identifier from the second outline to add to a desired location in the first outline through the user interface.

44. The system of claim 36, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanism for enabling a user to select a container from the second outline to add to a desired location in the first outline through the user interface.

45. The system of claim 36, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanism for enabling a user to create a new container to add to the first outline at a desired location through the user interface.